

12 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
FROM: Douglas J. MacEachin  
Director of Soviet Analysis  
SUBJECT: SOVA Efforts Targeted at the Soviet  
Information Revolution

REFERENCES:

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1. Action Requested: For your information only. I am forwarding the study you requested, The Information Technologies in Soviet Society: Problems and Prospects, which was prepared by [redacted] under contract to Dr. Julian Nall, National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology. I also have outlined our present research in this area and our plans for a fall conference with outside experts. [redacted]

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2. Background: I recommend the study to you as a well-done survey of the broad scope of the impending information revolution and its ramifications for governmental policy and political control in the USSR. We intend to use it as a point of departure for further analysis of the impact of the information revolution on the Soviet Union's ability to compete economically and militarily with the West. [redacted]

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3. We have planned our work in this area in the following blocks:

- Soviet development, acquisition, and assimilation of the technologies which pace the information revolution worldwide-- computers, software, microelectronics, telecommunications, and information management systems.
- How application of the particular technologies the Soviets plan to employ will limit or support efforts to improve economic efficiency through more flexible and capable approaches to factory automation, economic planning, and industrial and information management.
- Research on the implications of expanding use of information technology for Soviet society. [redacted]

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4. Our work in this area will be helped substantially by two external research contracts already underway: one [redacted] [redacted] ("Implications of the Information Revolution for Soviet Society") and another [redacted] [redacted] ("Application of Computer-Based Control Systems in Soviet Industry"). Given Soviet concerns and past Soviet performance in developing and applying these key technologies, we believe that Moscow will again turn to the West, thereby arguably presenting opportunities for the United States to influence directly the future course of the information revolution in the USSR. [redacted]

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6. You may want to consider having Dr. Ivan Selin, the Chairman of your Military-Economic Advisory Panel, organize and chair the conference. Dr. Selin is ideally positioned, in terms of his substantive expertise in telecommunications applications and his stature in academia and private industry, to select and invite substantively strong participants. I also recommend that SOVA establish and lead a permanent CIA-wide steering group on the information revolution in the USSR to support this conference and to coordinate further efforts in this arena. I nominate [redacted] Deputy Chief of the Defense and Economic Issues Group, to lead the steering group. Substantively, [redacted] has extensive experience in computer and information management systems and their applications. [redacted]

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Douglas J. MacEachin

Attachment:  
as stated

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SUBJECT: SOVA Efforts Targeted at the Soviet  
Information Revolution

DDI/SOVA/DEIG/DID:  (11 Aug 86)

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3404

28 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Soviet Affairs, DI

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Soviet Information Revolution

1. Thanks for the material you sent me on the Soviet information revolution. The paper on "The Debate Over 'Openness' in Soviet Propaganda and Culture" is a well done and useful background; however, what I want to focus on is not Soviet policy on openness, but the forces which will create more widespread exchange and circulation of information in the Soviet Union through whatever channels, government policies, and worldwide technological forces. I want this analysis to be pro-active in character, searching for and stimulating a greater flow of information to, from and within the Soviet Union.

2. I'd like to see the baseline study [REDACTED] provided for Julian Nall. 25X1  
I have seen the concept paper for the study to be done [REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] I am anxious for the conference on this subject to be held this fall. 25X1  
I would like your thoughts on subjects for this conference. I will think a little about that. Among others I would like to have participate are Leo Cherne, Zbig Brzezinski, Ross Perot, and Charlie Wick with someone from USIS. Get subjects, speaker suggestions [REDACTED] in this 25X1  
exercise.

  
William J. Casey

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11 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
 Executive Director [redacted]  
 Deputy Director for Intelligence [redacted]

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FROM: Douglas J. MacEachin  
 Director of Soviet Analysis, DDI

SUBJECT: The Soviet Information Revolution [redacted]

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1. Action: No action required, for your information only. SOVA has a number of projects underway bearing on the Soviet prospects for modernizing information handling and transmission and the implications of these developments for leadership control over Soviet society (see the attachment.) As a by-product of these efforts, we have secured or are securing the services of a variety of expert consultants,

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[redacted] directly addresses your concerns. In addition, [redacted] has completed a good baseline study for Julian Nall which assesses Soviet progress in applying information technology in the economy. Taken together these initiatives point out the technological difficulty the leadership faces in this vital sector, the benefits they can expect and the risks they incur in modernizing, and some of the steps they are taking to minimize these risks. [redacted]

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SUBJECT: The Soviet Information Revolution

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2. I have commissioned an overview paper which directly addresses likely development and applications of information technology in the USSR, and the implications of this development for political, economic, and social control. I plan on having this memorandum serve as the basis for a conference on the issue this fall. I welcome your suggestions regarding specific conference agenda items along with potential participants.

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3. For your information I have also attached a draft assessment, "The Debate Over 'Openness' in Soviet Propaganda and Culture," which addresses current leadership problems and initiatives in the area of information sharing.

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Douglas J. MacEachin

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Attachments:

- A. Research and Production on  
Soviet Information Revolution
- B. Draft Research Paper

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